

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237836

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, EFIN

SUBJECT: LETTER TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE: BURDENSARING

1. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO APPROPRIATELY PERSONALIZE AND
DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE SCHLESINGER TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE.

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BEGIN QUOTE DEAR MR. MINISTER: YOU ARE, OF COURSE, WELL

AWARE OF THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT WHICH WAS RECENTLY INCLUDED AS PART OF THE ARMED FORCES PROCUREMENT BILL. THE AMENDMENT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT IF THE NATO ALLIES DO NOT OFFSET US DEFENSE EXPENDITURES ENTERING THE INTERNATIONAL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IN NATO EUROPE DURING FY 1974, THE PRESIDENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO REDUCE US TROOP LEVELS BY A PERCENTAGE EQUAL TO THAT PERCENTAGE OF EXPENDITURES NOT OFFSET.

THE WORKING GROUP CHARGED WITH STUDYING THE US BOP PROBLEM RECENTLY SUBMITTED ITS INITIAL REPORT TO THE NAC. WHILE THE GROUP DID A COMMENDABLE JOB OF ANALYZING US BOP DATA AND IDENTIFYING VARIOUS OPTIONS, IT DID NOT RECOMMEND ANY GIVEN SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM.

FROM THE US STANDPOINT, THE CONTINUING VISIBILITY OF A SUBSTANTIAL US BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT ON MILITARY

ACCOUNT WITH RESPECT TO NATO EUROPE POSES FOR US A POLITICAL PROBLEM OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO US THAT OUR ALLIES DEMONSTRATE THEIR DETERMINATION AT THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL MEETINGS TO HELP THE US WITH SPECIFIC OFFSET MEASURES. SUCH A DEMONSTRATION WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO US IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE US CONTRIBUTION TO NATO'S SECURITY POSTURE. I AM AWARE THAT MANY DETAILS OF ACCOUNTING FOR US EXPENDITURES AND ALLIED OFFSETTING EXPENDITURES HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY AGREED. BECAUSE OF THIS, AND BECAUSE THE PROBLEM IS NEVERTHELESS POLITICAL IN ESSENCE, A CONCERTED DISPLAY OF POLITICAL WILL IS REQUIRED TO BRING ABOUT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME IN DECEMBER.

THEREFORE, I SOLICIT YOUR PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS YOUR GOVERNMENT IS NOW MAKING TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO TO ASSIST THIS END, I HOPE YOU WILL LET ME KNOW PROMPTLY.

SINCERELY,

J. SCHLESINGER

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END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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To: BONN MULTIPLE
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